



Stay on **TRRAC** . . .

With Multi-Family Recycling

Issue No. 8, May 2004

Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums in Montgomery County, Maryland

TRRAC

Calendar

- **MAY 17-21, 2004**
Montgomery County
Recycling Awareness Week
- **MAY 19, 2004**
Montgomery County
Recycling Awards Luncheon
By Invitation Only
- **MAY 20, 2004**
MCPS Recycling Poster
Contest Presentation
101 Monroe St., Rockville,
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
- **JUNE 15, 2004**
Composting/Grasscycling
Workshop
East Montgomery County
Regional Service Center,
3300 Briggs Chaney Road,
Silver Spring,
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
- **JUNE 16, 2004**
TRRAC Seminar
Four Points Sheraton
Bethesda, 8:00 a.m.
(No cost to register)

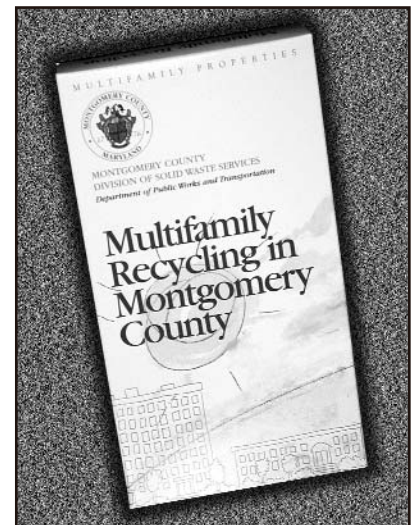


EXTRA! EXTRA! **Recycling is in the news.**

Recycling made a big splash in the news in April. County Executive Douglas Duncan announced plans to hire an investigator to help enforce recycling regulations at apartments and condominiums and to fund a Spanish language educational campaign targeting multi-family residents. Montgomery County has an ambitious goal of recycling **50 percent** of its waste. In fiscal year 2003, single-family homes recycled 51 percent of their trash, businesses recycled 30 percent and the multi-family sector recycled 11.6 percent. Everyone needs to do their part and recycle as much as possible—including residents of apartments and condominiums. While recycling at a rate of 11.6 percent is an improvement over last year, we CAN do better.

On May 19th, during **Recycling Awareness Week**, we will recognize 10 properties that exceed the County's goal. We will highlight these **TRRAC Stars** over the next few months. They demonstrate that it is indeed possible to recycle more than 50 percent when you educate your residents and staff and keep your program simple and convenient. Our program specialists will be glad to come to your property and advise you on ways to improve your program and share our many educational resources. We know you are busy, so call us at 240-777-6400 and we will schedule a day to stop by and speak with you for a few minutes about recycling.

An example of the educational resources we have available is a video tape entitled, "Multi-Family Recycling in Montgomery County." We have English and Spanish versions that explain recycling Do's and Don'ts. They're great for training your staff and reminding residents of the vital role they play in the success of recycling in Montgomery County. Give us a call, we'll be glad to get you a copy. ***We want you to be a TRRAC Star too!***





Composting Conserves and Saves Cash

Do you spend money every year to buy mulch? If so, you can save real dollars by composting on site. Not sure how to get started? Here are some money-saving tips to help you create and keep a productive compost pile at your location:

- **Build your compost pile anytime of year.** Create a simple, freestanding pile of no more than 5 feet high, or build or buy an inexpensive bin to keep your pile tidy.
- **Locate the compost pile on level, well-drained ground in either sun or shade.** Keep away from wooden fences and buildings, and avoid placing on a neighboring property line. Don't set it up over shallow tree roots.
- **Create a six-inch base of branches, twigs, or brush for drainage and aeration.** Resusing some old wooden pallets also works extremely well.
- **Don't build your pile with grass alone—mix in dry leaves, straw or wood chips to avoid odors.** You can also use leaves by themselves or mix in grass and other "green" garden trimmings for quicker compost. When adding new materials to an existing pile, be sure to mix them in thoroughly since you don't want to create layers.
- **Moisten materials as you add them and leave a concave depression at the top of the pile to capture rainwater.** It is important to keep materials moist throughout the year—but not wet. It is often best not to cover your pile so water can seep in. A dry pile will not compost.
- **Never add meat, bones, fat, oils, dairy products or processed foods to the pile to avoid odors and pests.** Never add diseased plants, weeds with seeds, or cat or dog wastes.
- **Try to turn, fluff, or aerate this area on occasion**—whether every week, every month or just once or twice a year.
- **Wait 6–12 months** and get ready to use your compost as a top-dressing for your lawn, as mulch for trees and shrubs, or a side-dressing for flower beds.
- **Compost is ready to use when it is dark brown-black and crumbly.** Composting will allow you to go spend the green cash you've saved elsewhere!

RECYCLING CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Multi-Family properties **MUST** recycle the following materials:**
 - Newspapers (including inserts)
 - Aluminum cans and aluminum foil products
 - Bi-metal food and beverage cans
 - Glass bottles and jars
 - Plastic bottles with necks
 - Yard trim (grass, leaves, brush and Christmas trees)
- ✓ **Many Multi-Family complexes have expanded their recycling collection programs to allow you to recycle additional items such as:**
 - Mixed paper:** At this time, Multi-Family properties are not required to recycle mixed paper. However, this is expected to change in the near future, and property managers can contract with their current recycling collection company to include a mixed paper-recycling program. Call or e-mail us for more information.
 - Corrugated cardboard boxes
 - Telephone Books
 - Scrap metal

To learn how to include even more materials into your property's recycling program, see your Property Manager's Guide to Recycling. If you do not have a copy of this important reference book, please call **240-777-6400** to request a copy.

TRRAC Stars

Have you, or someone you know, done something outstanding to support recycling at your property? Let us know and your property might be featured in our next newsletter.



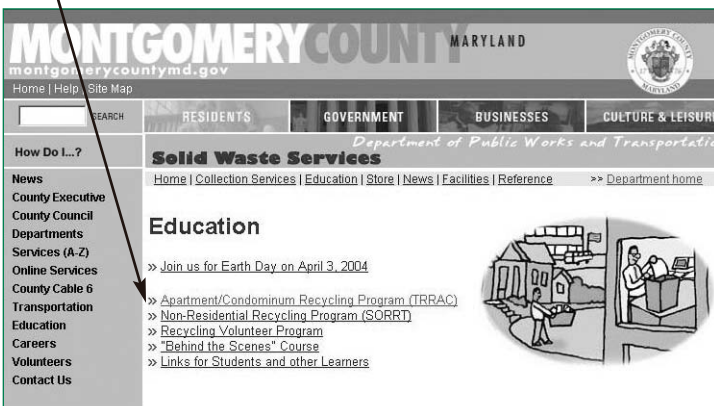
Musco Barber, Site Manager,
Grosvenor Park IV

We know that many properties work diligently at recycling but have not yet reached 50%. In an effort to acknowledge all of you, we chose to recognize **Musco Barber** and the residents of **Grosvenor Park IV Condominium (GP4)**. For the past three years, Site Manager, Musco Barber, has extended great focus on the need to recycle. Mr. Barber provides each new and existing resident of the 215 units with the County's recycling flyers and brochures that outline the Do's and Don'ts of recycling. Along with his residents, Mr. Barber has started a program called "Eye Recycle" which was designed to help the residents focus on the awareness, need, and benefits of recycling. Additionally, Mr. Barber works closely with the Board of Directors to ensure that recycling procedures are followed. They are constantly looking for ways to make their recycling program better. Their motto, "Recycle Today and See a Better Tomorrow," means the world to them. Although Grosvenor Park IV is recycling 48%, we know that with this innovative program and the enthusiasm that Musco and the engineers at GP4 bring to recycling, it's only a matter of time before they are exceeding 50%. Thanks to Musco and everyone associated with GP4 for your hard work!

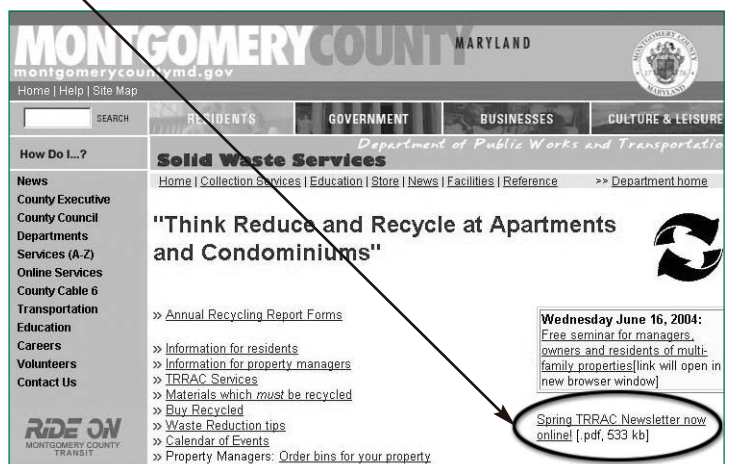
DID YOU KNOW . . .

TRRAC newsletters are also available on the County's Web Site?

1. Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
2. Click **Apartment/Condominium Recycling Program (TRRAC)**.



3. Click the issue you wish to read and you are on your way.





EVER WONDER WHY THE RECYCLING SYMBOL HAS THREE CHASING ARROWS?

It symbolizes the global theme of **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**. In the next couple of issues we'll share some information about each of these important aspects of keeping our community clean and healthy.






Reduce

If you use and throw away less you will be practicing source reduction, also known as waste prevention. Along with reducing the amount of material disposed, source reduction cuts the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution produced. Greenhouse gases harm the atmosphere that protects us from dangerous UV radiation emitted by the sun, and air pollution is suspected of causing many health hazards. You might ask how reducing my waste cuts greenhouse gases and improves our air?

A significant factor in the amount of greenhouse gases and pollution is the production and transport of goods. When we manufacture then move merchandise by truck, train, or airplane, we create more carbon monoxide (CO) and other pollutants that combine with chemicals in the air to breakdown our atmosphere and create smog.

Consider that residents and businesses in Montgomery County disposed over 1,185,000 tons of solid waste in fiscal year 2003

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

-  If we reduce the amount of glass we dispose of by 100 tons, it would be like removing the pollution created by 13 cars for an entire year.
-  If we reduce the amount of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) we dispose of by 100 tons, it would be like removing the pollution created by 37 cars for an entire year.
-  If we reduce the amount of corrugated cardboard we dispose of by 100 tons, it would be like removing the pollution created by 39 cars for an entire year.
-  If we reduce the amount of paper we dispose of by 100 tons, it would be like removing the pollution created by 61 cars for an entire year.
-  If we reduce the amount of aluminum we dispose of by 100 tons, it would be like removing the pollution created by 190 cars for an entire year.

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Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services
Multi-Family Recycling Program
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Important Contact Information
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(240) 777-6400
(240) 777-6442 (tty)
(240) 777-6465 (fax)
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
e-mail: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov
Recycling for Multi-Family Properties
(240) 777-6400
County Transfer Station
(301) 840-2370
County Recycling Center
(301) 417-1433
This information is available in an alternate format by calling
Ronald Clarkson at (240) 777-6400.



MAY 2004

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